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Sericophorus rhinoceros, a New Species from New Caledonia (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)

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Abstract.—The genus *Sericophorus,* previously known from Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea, is first recorded from New Caledonia, where it is represented by an undescribed species, *Sericophorus rhinoceros.* This species has a unique, horn-like projection on the female clypeus, and subsidiary recognition features are: elongate basal ridges and spiracle bearing prongs on tergum I and large projection of sternum I.

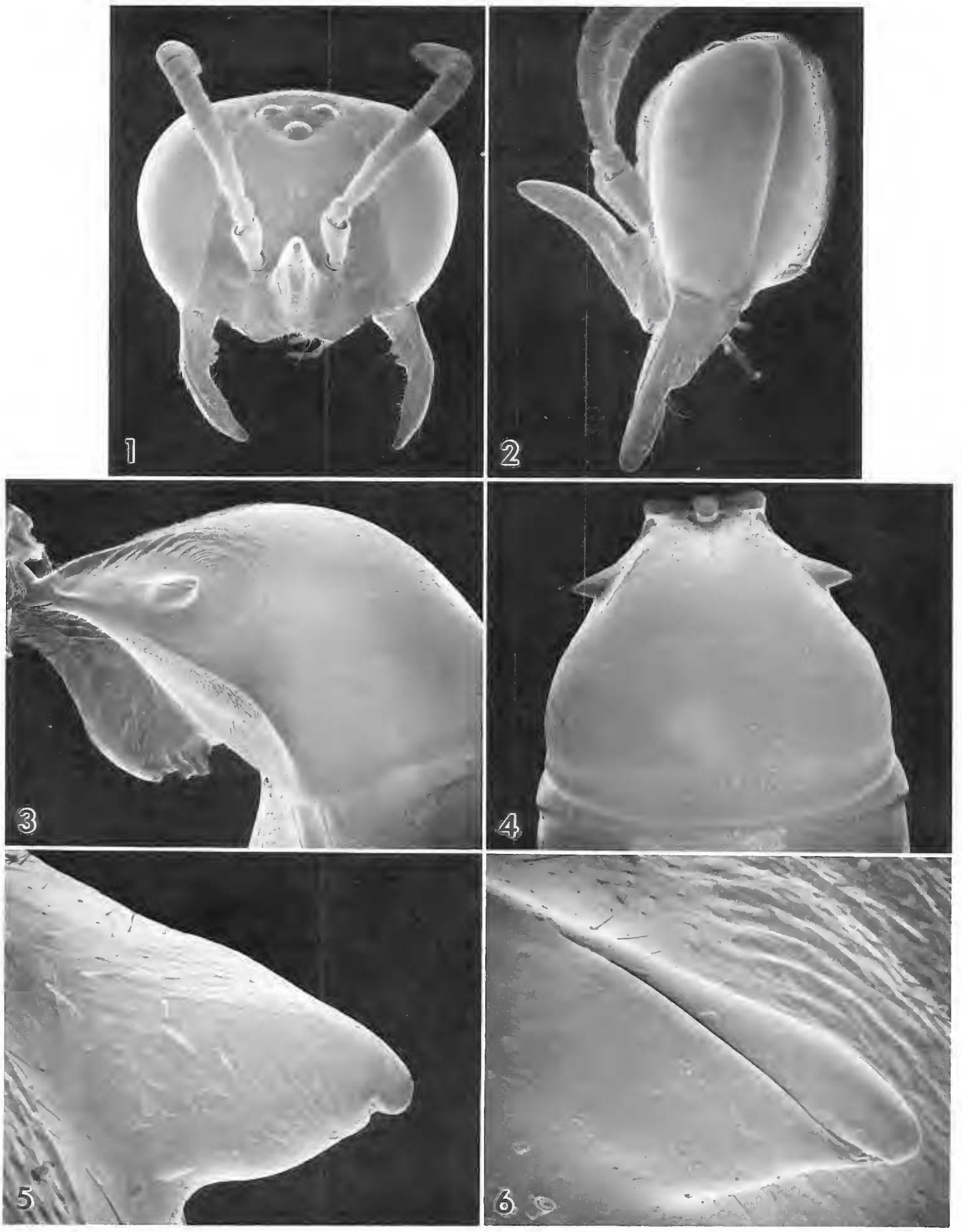
The genus *Sericophorus* is currently known from Australia, Tasmania, and New Guinea (Bohart and Menke, 1976), but an unusual new species from New Caledonia was discovered at the Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii, during my visit in November 1988. The species is described below.

Sericophorus rhinoceros, NEW SPECIES
(Figs. 1–6)

Name derivation.—Rhinoceros is derived from two Greek words, rhis (rhinos), a nose, snout, beak, bill; and keros, a horn; with reference to the particular clypeal structure of the female of this species.

Diagnosis.—*Sericophorus rhinoceros* is the only known representative of the genus in New Caledonia. It has a unique female clypeus: the disk with a large, horn-like projection, and the free margin of the lobe not dentate (Figs. 1, 2). The presence of two conical, spiracle bearing projections on tergum I (Figs. 3–5) is shared only with *Sericophorus sericeus* (Kohl) from South Australia (Bohart and Menke, 1976:301), although a similar structure, a pair of small tubercles on tergum I, is found in *Sericophorus flavofasciatus* (R. Turner) from Queensland (Hacker and Cockerell, 1922). The elongate basal ridges of tergum I are also distinctive, and so is the slit-like spiracle of tergum I and the expanded sternum I (a new species from Papua New Guinea being described by Arnold Menke also has a slit-like spiracle and a conspicuous but differently shaped, hook-like sternal prominence).

Description.—*Sericophorus rhinoceros* has all diagnostic characters of the genus discussed by Menke (1977): forewing with three nonpetiolate submarginal cells, occipital carina joining hypostomal carina, and female pygidial plate setose. Other characters, common to the known species of *Sericophorus* (Bohart and Menke, 1976:299) and also found in *rhinoceros,* are: inner orbits converging above (Fig. 1); clypeal free margin with broad median lobe (Fig. 2); labrum broad, short, not protruding beyond clypeal free margin; inner mandibular margin with two sub-



Figures 1–6. *Sericophorus rhinoceros,* a new species, female. 1. Head frontally. 2. Head laterally. 3. Gastral segment I laterally. 4. Tergum I dorsally. 5. Prong of tergum I from above. 6. Prong of tergum I from the side showing slit-like spiracle.

basal teeth (Fig. 1); posterior mandibular margin shallowly notched (Fig. 2); mouthparts not elongate; antennae clavate; collar short; admedian lines well separated; propodeum short, dorsal enclosure not delimited; female tergum VI with densely setose pygidial plate (lateral carina of plate present on less than apical half of tergum); legs short, stout; midcoxae separated, hindcoxae contiguous;

hindtibia spinose, including dorsal row of spines; foretarsus with rake, forebasitarsus with six preapical rake spines whose length is about equal to basitarsus width; tarsomeres V inflated, arolium large; second submarginal cell four-sided, receiving second recurrent vein; first recurrent vein received by submarginal cell I; hindwing jugal lobe about as long as 0.4 of anal cell.

The following characteristics place *rhinoceros* in the subgenus *Zoyphidium* (Bohart and Menke, 1976:301): marginal cell sharply pointed (not truncate); propodeum without carina between dorsum and side, dorsum with longitudinal, noncarinate impression; and forewing media diverging from Cu + M before cu-a.

Specific characters of *rhinoceros* are the following:

♀: Free margin of clypeal lobe broadly, evenly concave, without lateral teeth (Fig. 1); clypeal disk with large, horn-like prominence (Figs. 1, 2). Frons without median swelling. Dorsal length of flagellomere I about 1.3× maximum width; flagellomere IX as wide as long on the outer side but markedly wider than long on the inner side; length of flagellomere X about 2.2× basal width. Pronotum not emarginate mesally. Notauli and scutellar prominence absent. Propleuron concave anteromesally, with prominent anterolateral corner but not tuberculate posterolaterally. Scutum and mesopleuron minutely punctate. Scrobal sulcus a shallow, ill-defined impression. Propodeal dorsum shiny, minutely punctate; side and hindface (except hindface mesally) microsculptured, dull, minutely punctate. Gastral terga finely punctate. Tergum I with a pair of basal ridges that extend almost to tergal midlength, and with conspicuous, conical prominence between each ridge and laterotergite (Figs. 3–5); spiracle slit-like (Fig. 6). Sternum I with conspicuous bulge (Fig. 3); bulge broad in ventral view. Length 13 mm.

Vestiture short; setae appressed on vertex, on scutum about 0.3× midocellar diameter.

Body black, but the following are brown reddish: distal half of mandible, flagellomeres IV–X ventrally, and foretibial venter and inner face. Wings infumate except nearly hyaline basally. Frontal vestiture silvery with golden tinge.

♂: Unknown.

Material examined.—Holotype: ♀, New Caledonia: Mt. Koghi, 400–600 m, February 1973, H. L. H. Krauss (Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Honolulu, Hawaii).

Acknowledgments

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